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GUEST STAR
FROM A
DISTANT TIME WITH A MISSION
TO BOGGLE THE MIND!**

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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

APPROVED
BY THE
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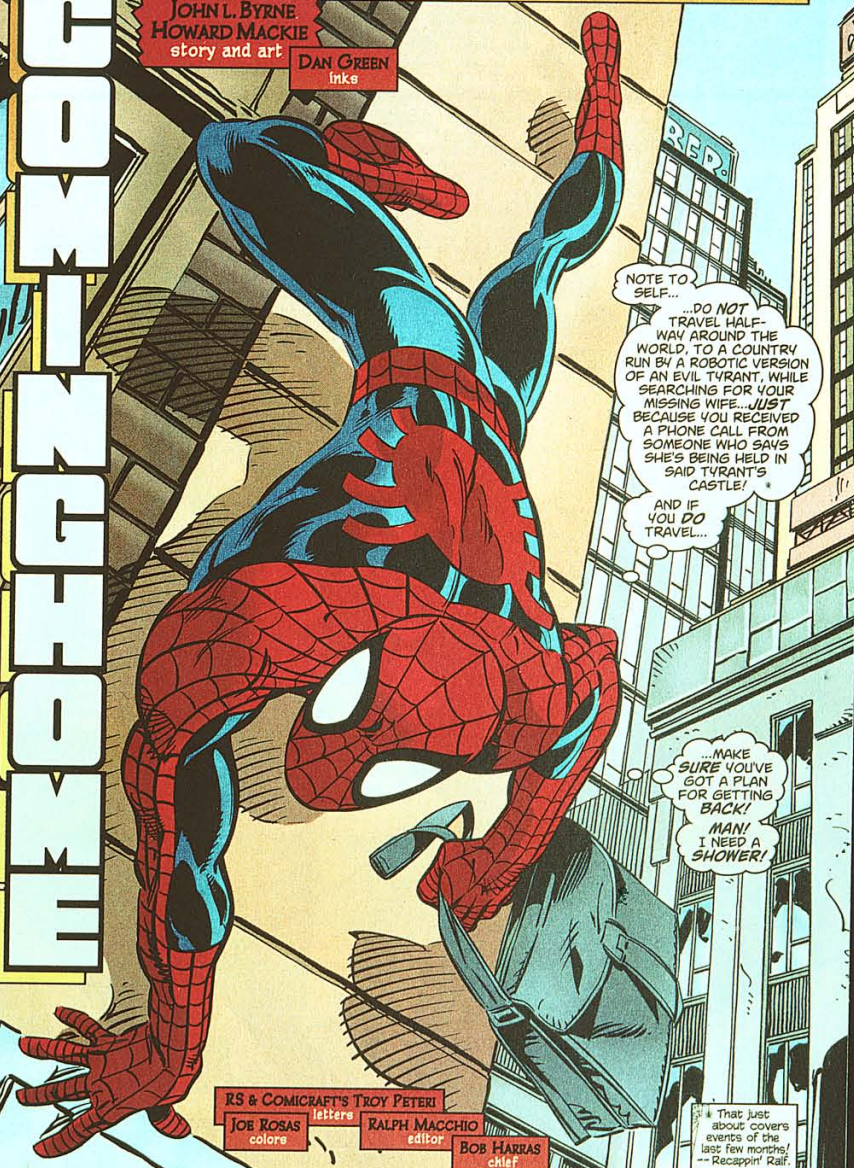
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AT A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIATION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHICH HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STRIKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT POWERS IN THE SERVICE OF HIS FELLOW MAN, BECAUSE HE LEARNED AN INVALUABLE LESSON: WITH GREAT POWER MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

JOHN L. BYRNE
HOWARD MACKIE
story and art

DAN GREEN
inks

COMICBOOK



NOTE TO SELF...

...DO NOT TRAVEL HALF-WAY AROUND THE WORLD, TO A COUNTRY RUN BY A ROBOTIC VERSION OF AN EVIL TYRANT, WHILE SEARCHING FOR YOUR MISSING WIFE... JUST BECAUSE YOU RECEIVED A PHONE CALL FROM SOMEONE WHO SAYS SHE'S BEING HELD IN SAID TYRANT'S CASTLE!

AND IF YOU DO TRAVEL...

...MAKE SURE YOU'VE GOT A PLAN FOR GETTING BACK! MAN! I NEED A SHOWER!

RS & COMICRAFT'S TROY PETERI
letters

JOE ROSAS
colors

RALPH MACCHIO
editor

BOB HARRAS
chief

That just about covers the events of the "Large Town" month! — Recappin' Ralf

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: Vol. 2, No. 16, April, 2000. (ISSN 1027-4322) Published by MARVEL COMICS, a division of MARVEL ENTERPRISES, INC. Peter Dinklage, President; Art Aspin, Chief Creative Officer; Stan Lee, Chairman Emeritus. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 300 PARK AVENUE, SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 2000 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$2.50 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.45 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$27.00; Foreign \$39.00; and Canadian \$42.00. Subscribers must add \$10.00 for postage and GST. POSTMASTER: No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, or other institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, not in a mutilated condition. SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive Marvel Comics identity) is a trademark of MARVEL CHARACTERS, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, c/o MARVEL DIRECT MARKETING CORP./SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 1979, DANBURY, CT 06813-1979. TELEPHONE (203) 743-5321. FAX (203) 744-9944. Printed in the U.S.A.

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YEAH!
THAT'S
EXACTLY
WHAT I
NEED!

A HOT
SHOWER, A
LONG NAP, SOME
OF AUNT MAY'S
HOME COOKING
AND THEN...
...I CAN
FIGURE OUT
WHAT I SHOULD
DO NEXT TO FIND
MARY JANE.
I REFUSE
TO BELIEVE SHE
DIED IN THAT
RECENT PLANE
CRASH!

WHAT THE
HECK?!

THE
PLACE LOOKS
LIKE A DISASTER
AREA! EVERYTHING'S
ALL PACKED UP
AND...
AUNT
MAY!



(PETER!)
I'M
GLAD YOU'RE
BACK!
I WAS
STARTING TO
WORRY SO WHEN
I DIDN'T HEAR
FROM YOU.

HAVE YOU
EATEN? I CAN
PROBABLY WHIP
SOMETHING UP FOR
YOU. I DON'T THINK THE
ENTIRE KITCHEN IS
ENTIRELY PACKED
YET...

AUNT
MAY, WHAT
IS GOING ON
HERE? WHY DOES
IT LOOK LIKE
WE'RE MOVING
OUT?



I TRIED TALKING
TO YOU ABOUT IT
BEFORE YOU LEFT,
BUT YOU WERE SO
ENTHUSIASTIC OVER
THE NEWS ABOUT
MARY JANE THAT YOU
JUST WOULDN'T
HEAR IT.

I DID THE
BEST I COULD
TO DELAY IT ALL,
BUT SOON AFTER
YOU LEFT FOR
LATVERIA THINGS
STARTED FALLING
APART.
THE BANK
CLAIMS THAT
THE MORTGAGE ON
THE APARTMENT WAS
SEVERAL MONTHS
IN ARREARS...

...SAME
WITH THE ELECTRIC
COMPANY, INSURANCE,
CREDIT CARDS...
EVERYTHING.

I'VE BEEN STAVING
OUT IN QUEENS WITH
ANNA WATSON. YOU
KNOW THERE WOULD
BE PLENTY OF ROOM
FOR YOU, PETER.

I KNOW
ANNA WOULD
BE MORE THAN
HAPPY --

NO...NO...
NO!

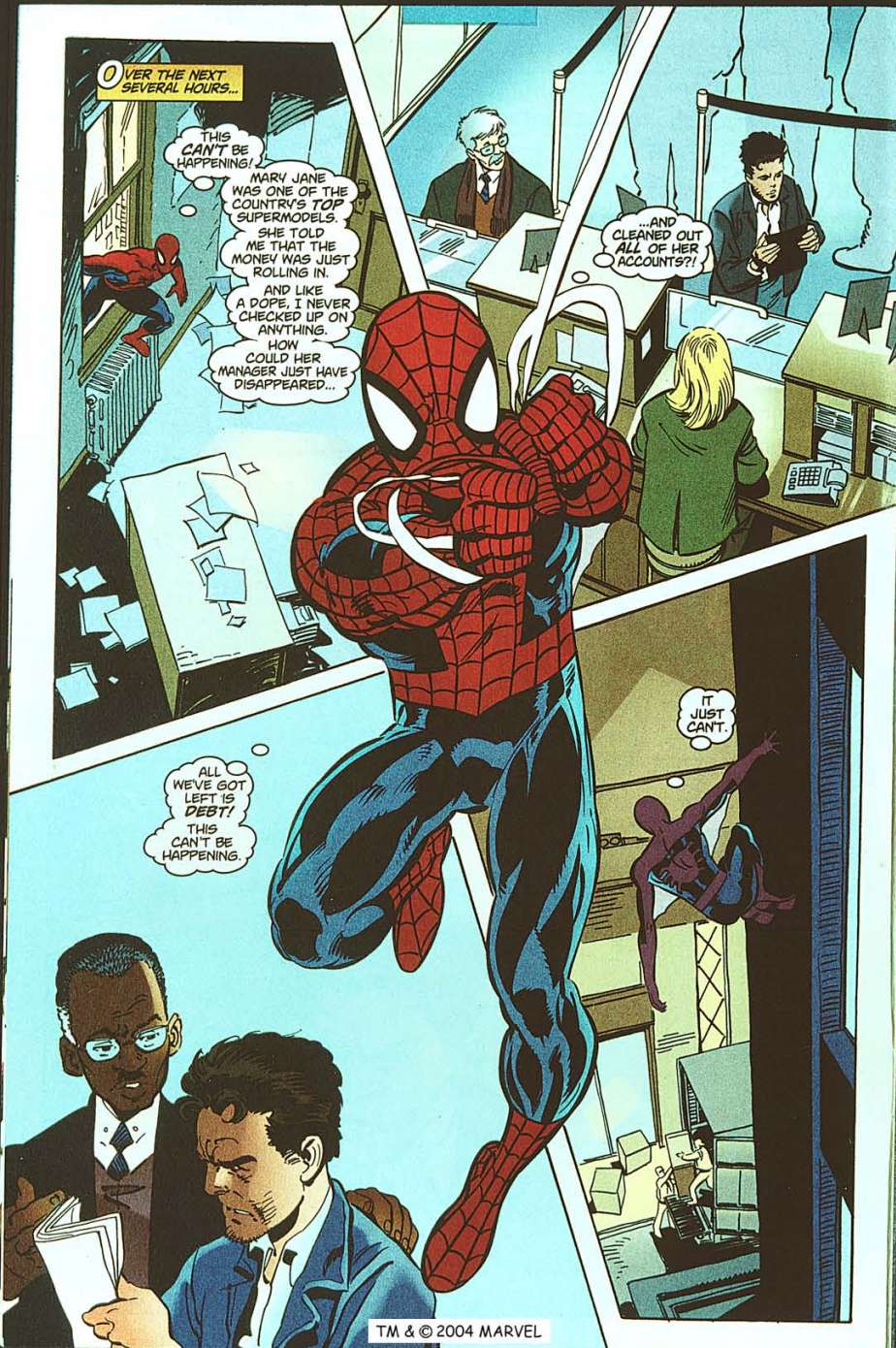
THIS IS
IMPOSSIBLE.
HOW COULD THIS
BE HAPPENING?
MARY JANE'S
MANAGER IS
SUPPOSED TO
HANDLE ALL HER
FINANCES.

DID
YOU TRY
CONTACTING
HIM?



I
TRIED, DEAR,
BUT HE'S NEVER
GOTTEN BACK TO
ME. I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO. YOU
WERE GONE
AND --

DON'T
WORRY, AUNT
MAY. MJ WAS TAKING
CARE OF US. IT'S HER
MODELING MONEY THAT
GOT US THIS FIFTH
AVENUE PENTHOUSE.
I'LL STRAIGHTEN
THIS OUT.



AT THIS INSTANT,
YOU ARE HURLING
THROUGH THE UNIVERSE.

YOU DON'T NEED A SHOE THAT KEEPS UP.
YOU NEED ONE THAT KEEPS SCORE.

Imagine a shoe so smart
it can measure
how fast you run and
how far you jump.
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in your cosmic dust.
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A SHORT TIME LATER...

I'M SORRY, AUNT MAN. IT'S JUST GOING TO TAKE ME A LITTLE TIME TO GET THIS ALL STRAIGHTENED OUT.

BUT I'LL GET US BACK ON OUR FEET. I PROMISE.



OF COURSE YOU WILL, DEAR.

I'VE STILL GOT MY JOB AT TRICORP, AND THE OCCASIONAL FREELANCE CHECK FROM THE DAILY BUGLE.



I HAD BEEN JUST SENDING ALL THE MONEY STRAIGHT INTO THE JOINT ACCOUNT, SO WE DON'T HAVE ANY SAVINGS NOW, BUT SOON...

PETER, I WILL BE OKAY. PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.



THINGS JUST HAVE A WAY OF WORKING THEMSELVES OUT.

COME OUT TO ANNA'S TONIGHT.

HAVE A HOT MEAL AND A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP.

THINGS WILL SEEM BETTER IN THE MORNING.



WHERE DOES SHE FIND THE STRENGTH?

AFTER EVERYTHING SHE'S BEEN THROUGH IN HER LIFE...



...HOW DOES SHE DO IT?

I'VE GOT TO GET TO WORK.

GOT TO START PULLING THINGS TOGETHER. SHE'S A WIDOW BECAUSE ONCE UPON A TIME I FAILED TO ACT. I WON'T FAIL HER AGAIN.



A SHORT TIME LATER, AT THE TRICORP RESEARCH CORP. FACILITIES...

HERE, SOME OF THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS OF OUR GENERATION ARE DRAWN TO LEAD THIS NATION INTO THE THIRD MILLENNIUM...

...AND TO MAKE A PROFIT, WHILE DOING SO.

AMIDST THE FLURRY OF ACTIVITY WHICH, TO THOSE WORKING AT TRICORP, IS KNOWN AS WEDNESDAY...

...COMES A MOST UNLIKELY VISITOR.



HER NAME IS CASSANDRA LOCKE.

SHE IS A TIME TRAVELING HISTORIAN AND LIBRARIAN FROM A FAR DISTANT PERIOD.

See the new MARVEL: LOST GENERATIONS book for full details -- Plug-happy Ralf.



WHERE AM I NOW?



THE FASHIONS APPEAR TO BE RIGHT FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, BUT...

...I'M JUST NOT SURE I HIT THE RIGHT DECADE.

TARGETING IS SO IMPRECISE WHEN --

HEY! STOP!

WHAT? HOW COULD THEY KNOW --?

BACKWARDIA

Where's the Cap'n?

**BACKWARDIA IS ONE PLACE
THE CAP'N HAS VISITED
ON HIS ADVENTURE. HOLD
THIS PAGE UP TO A MIRROR
TO FIND A SECRET MESSAGE!**

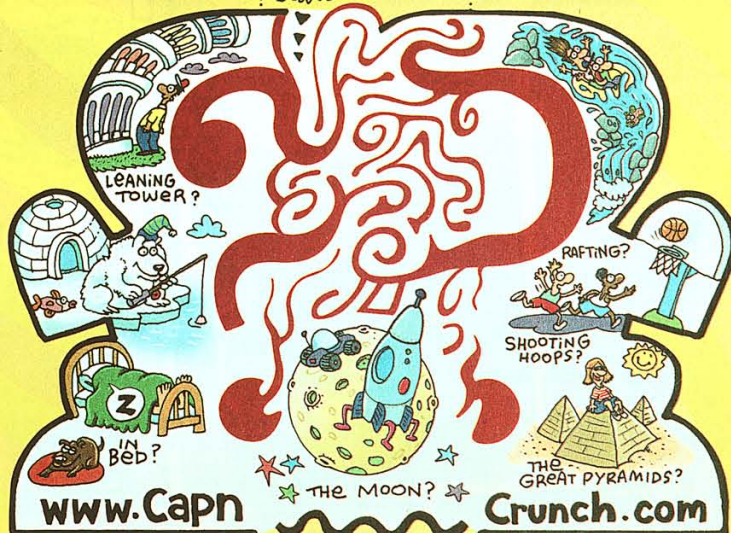
WHERE

BACKWARD BURGERS

A  **Fold Together**  **B**

Where's the Cap'n?

Start



Find him and win part of the
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[illegible]

A  **Fold Together**  **B**

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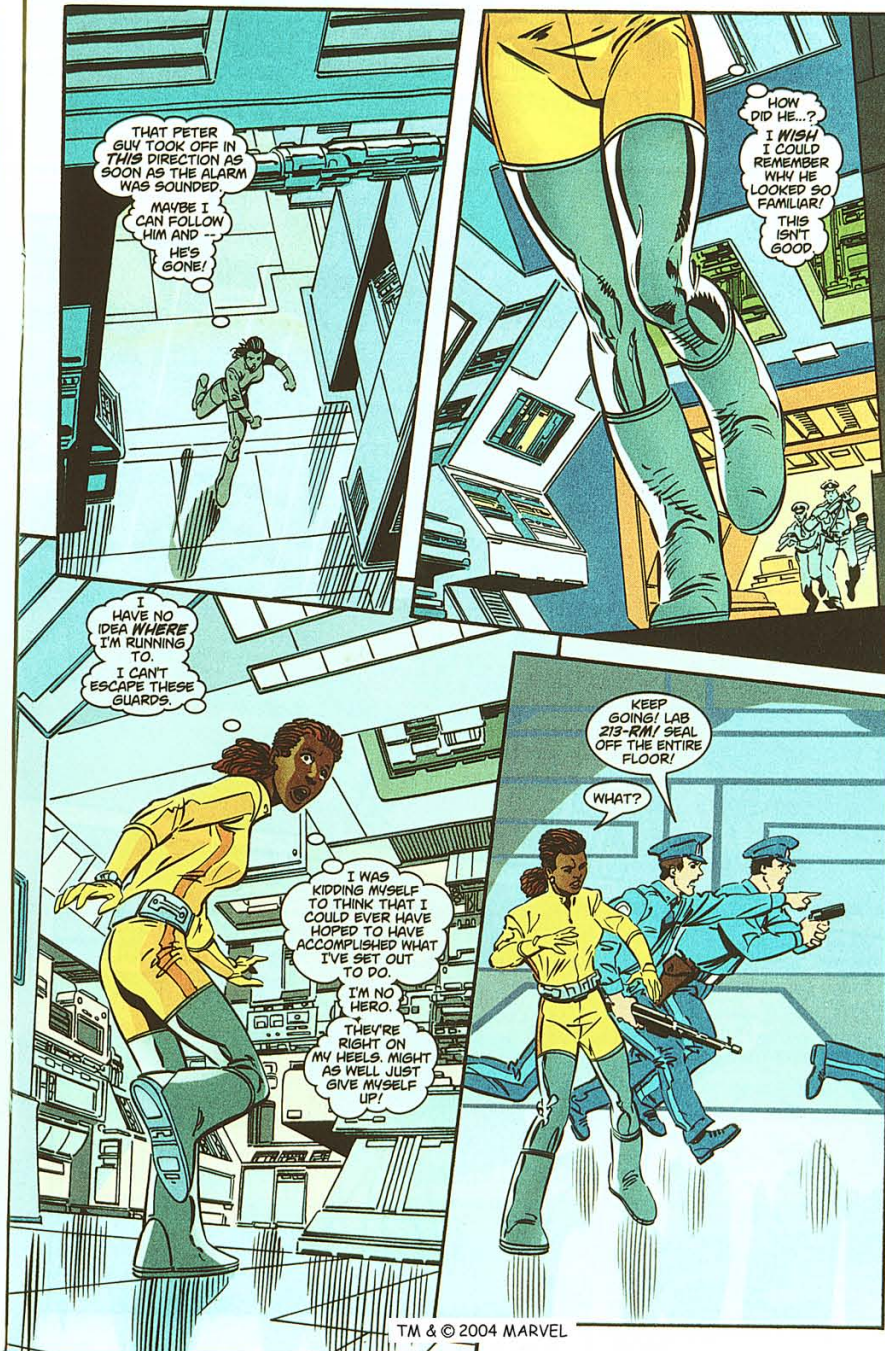
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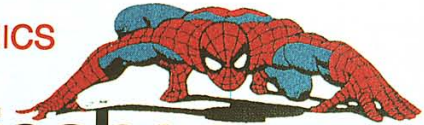




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IRVING: 2550 N. Beltline Rd. (Opposite Irving Mall)
MESQUITE: 3600 Gus Thomasson (At Towne Crossing)
PLANO: 3100 Independence Parkway (West of Tom Thumb)

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WHAT
THE --?

SPIDER-MAN?!

I DID
ARRIVE TOO
SOON!

THIS IS
ALL TOO
CONFUSING.

I WISH
THEY HAD A MORE
ACCURATE AND
RELIABLE METHOD
OF RECORDING
HISTORY BACK
NOW.

I SHOULD
JUST KEEP
MOVING ON,
BUT...

I'VE GOT
TO STICK AROUND
AND SEE HOW THIS
ALL PLAYS OUT.

SO MANY
QUESTIONS REGARDING
THIS TIME PERIOD COULD
BE STRAIGHTENED OUT
BY MY BEING
HERE.

THE
OPPORTUNITY OF
A LIFETIME.



EXCUSE ME,
DR. TWAKI, BUT
I THINK THIS IS NOT
THE PLACE FOR YOU
RIGHT NOW.

SPIDER-MAN!

MY
ASSISTANT...
I --

I GOT YOU
BOTH.

NOW MAYBE
YOU CAN SHUT THIS
THING DOWN BEFORE
IT COMPLETELY
GOES.

EXACTLY
WHAT IS IT YOU'RE
WORKING ON
ANYWAY?

AN
ADVANCED FORM
OF ENERGY WHICH -- IS
FAR TOO COMPLEX AN
ENDEAVOR TO EXPLAIN
TO THE LAY MIND,
SPIDER-MAN.
AND I HAVE NO
TIME TO GIVE YOU AN
ADVANCED PHYSICS
LESSON.

NO! OVER
HERE.

IT'S THE
GHOST!
HE DID IT!

GUESS I
SHOULD HAVE
BEEN PAYING MORE
ATTENTION TO
THE STUFF GOING
ON HERE AT
TRICORP.

WAIT A
MINUTE! HOW
DID YOU GET
IN HERE?
SPIDER-MAN
IS THE SABOTEUR!





BULLPEN BULLETINS

AVAILABLE FEBRUARY 16TH

BISHOP: THE LAST X-MAN

Lurking in the shadows the Clan Heliore conspiring to stop the Chronomancer and restore the world to the simpler place it once was. The key to their plan is Bishop, and they're giving him their word, whether he wants it or not! By JOSEPH HARRIS and GEORGES JEANTY

CAPTAIN AMERICA

Determined to locate a missing Sharon Carter, Captain America heads into the Savage Land! And what he finds there will amaze you! Plus, The shocking secret of what H.I.E.D. is hiding in their warehouse! All this, and the villainy of Count Nefaral By DAN JURGENS and ANDY KUBERT

CAPTAIN MARVEL

Can Moonragon help Captain Marvel master his newfound — and uncontrollable — Cosmic Awareness? And where Moonragon travels, can Drax the Destroyer be far behind? Plus, More problems for Rick Jones and Marvel By PETER DAVID and CHRIS CROSSI

DAREDEVIL

One man can put the Kingpin behind bars, but can Daredevil find him in a race against the clock? Meanwhile, to defend his own life, Wilson Fisk must take the stand — and reveal secrets from his past! Plus, The new villain called Echo throws DD a beating just for good luck! By DAVID MACK and JOE QUESADA

INCREDIBLE HULK

The only hope that Bruce Banner has to halt the monstrosity ravaging his mindspace is to unite the various components of his shattered psyche! But can any threat bring together the savage Hulk, the gray model, the intelligent version and Banner himself? And before it's all over, a new Hulk — different from all others — will stand revealed! By PAUL JENKINS and RON GARNEY

MARVEL SELECTS: SPIDER-MAN

Relive the magic with the series that presents classic moments in the life of Spider-Man! This issue reprints AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (Vol. 1) #103, in which Spider-Man, for the life of Gwen Stacy, battles the monstrous Gog in the Savage Land! By ROY THOMAS and GIL KANE

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN

Venom hunts the Sinister Six! Picking up on the action in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16, Peter Parker must find out if J. Jonah Jameson really knows his secret identity. But he may not have much time to check in with the Daily Bugle's publisher because Venom has some unfinished business with Jameson! By HOWARD MACKIE and JOHN ROMITA JR.

THUNDERBOLTS

Hawkeye faces both a turning point and a new Thunderbolt! The only hope the Thunderbolts have of helping their former teammate, Aye Jenkins is by bringing down the new Beetle and blackmailing the Commission! But will Hawkeye compromise his morals to save his friend — and will his partners discover that he lied about the Commission's pardon? By FABIAN NICIEZA and MARK BAGLEY

X-51

Faced with the danger he posed to both man and mutantkind, X-51 has made a noble sacrifice — and battles on in cyberspace! Now the Machine Man must purge the mutant-hating Sentinel programs from his system — or lose himself forever! By KARL BOLLERS and JOE BENNETT

X-MEN

Trapped on another world, Nate Grey fights to liberate imprisoned aliens from forces the likes of which he's never imagined! By TERRY KAVANAGH and MIKE MILLER

X-MEN

The Children Of The Atom find their mutant powers stripped away! But where does that leave the X-Men? Wolverine, who has just recovered his adamantium, is dying. A no-longer-icy Bobby Drake and Hank McCoy (sans his blue fur) are trapped in war-torn Genosha — with a suddenly very human Magneto! By ALAN DAVID and BRET BOOTH

BULLPEN BITS #40



BY CHRIS GIARRUSSO

H Heroes!

I know you're as eager as I to meet all our new No-Prize Laureates, so let's get right to their questions as we dispense our whirlpool of wisdom for a grateful mankind.

I bet Rachid Yahya of the Bronx, NY, has been watching a lot of old TV reruns.

"Did you base Spidey's J. Jonah Jameson on Lou Grant from the Jerry Tyler Moore show? They're both journalists and are both grumpy but decent inside."

Funny you should mention that, Rachid. Ed Asner is actually a friend of mine. But no, I didn't base JJ on Ed's Lou Grant portrayal. I actually based him on (sound of trumpets, please!) my own grumpy and grouchy but extremely lovable self.

Here's a query from Matt Birch of Kingsport, TN to bring out the scientist in us...

"If Captain America's shield is painted red, white and blue, wouldn't the paint peel off when it's blasted or whacked? Maybe Dr. Myron McLean mixed the paint with the vibranium alloy."

Wow, it's great when a No-Prize actually furnishes the answer along with his question. I can't improve upon your Dr. McLean theory, so you've got it, Bunk!

Now I'll prove I can be brief and to the point as I answer a most difficult and complex question posed to me by Gabriela Steren of Buenos Aires, Argentina...

"Here's a question that's been going 'round my mind for some time. Why is it that the male comicbook characters in your books don't have lips?"

They do! Haven't you noticed they're always talking?

Do you think Bart Leavens of Low Moor, IA secretly desires to be an optometrist?

"Stan, I have a quick question about

Stan Lee

Stan Lee

Stan Lee

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Stan Lee



your glasses. Are you near-sighted or far-sighted? On second thought, do you wear them to keep your identity a secret?"

Just between us, Bart, the problem with my eyes is -- I've got astigmatism. Living here in Los Angeles, I love being in the sun and it's too much trouble to change from my regular glasses to sun glasses, so I take the lazy way out and just wear the sunglasses all the time. I'm afraid there's not much chance of keeping my identity a secret since my name and my caricature seem to be splashed all over the place! Besides, I like being a celebrity, even if my wife is the only one who thinks I am!

Andrew Vogt of Ft. Collins, CO writes to share a matter of grave concern with us...

"What are Reed Richards and Iron Man doing about Marvel's 'YK2 virus'?" Hey, Andy, after fighting villains like Dr. Doom and Galactus, do you think a measly YK2 virus'll bother our superheroes? They'll let Iribush handle it!

Well, that wraps it for this ish, True Believers! I wish we could visit longer, but I'm probably better off quilting while I'm ahead -- there's always the chance that the next batch of questions'll be too tough to handle, even for Stan (the poor man's Professor X) Leel! So till next ish, remember -- Buy Marvel! -- we've got rent to pay!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

Stan Lee

Stan Lee

Stan Lee

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WIZARD

So what do you do?

- 1) Vote for one and ONLY ONE entry in each category. Multiple votes in any category disqualify the whole ballot. And if ya do that, we'll punch you in the back of the head.
- 2) What happens if you don't like the nominees listed? Feel free to go off the board and write in your own choice in the "write-in" category! It's easy! It's fun! Why, it's democratic and stuff!
- 3) You don't have to vote in every category if you don't wish, and you only get to vote ONCE! All multiple ballots will be disqualified. That means none of your votes count if you try to cheat! And believe us...we have our ways of finding out.

Ready? Then grab a non-leaky pen and GO!

FAVORITE WRITER

- ☐ Kurt Busiek (Avengers)
- ☐ Warren Ellis (The Authority)
- ☐ Jeph Loeb (Superman)
- ☐ Alan Moore (League of Ext. Gentlemen)
- ☐ Kevin Smith (Daredevil)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE PENCILER

- ☐ Adam Kubert (Uncanny X-Men)
- ☐ Joe Quesada (Daredevil)
- ☐ George Pérez (Avengers)
- ☐ Michael Turner (Fathom)
- ☐ Leinil Francis Yu (Wolverine)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE INKER

- ☐ John Dell (JLA)
- ☐ Scott Hanna (Amazing Spider-Man)
- ☐ Jimmy Palmiotti (Daredevil)
- ☐ Tim Townsend (Uncanny X-Men)
- ☐ Al Vey (Avengers)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE PAINTER

- ☐ Brian Bolland (Invisibles)
- ☐ Glenn Fabry (Preacher)
- ☐ David Mack (Daredevil)
- ☐ Glen Orbik (Batman)
- ☐ Alex Ross (Earth X)
- ☐ write-in

FLEX YOUR MUSCLE!

The Seventh Annual Wizard Fan Awards are upon us, and it's time for you, the comic fans of the world, to determine what's the cream of the crop in the comic world!

Each little box below represents a different category. Each category contains five nominees determined through a "Wizard World: Online" poll.

FAVORITE COLORIST

- ☐ Brian Haberlin (Aria)
- ☐ Richard Isanove (Daredevil)
- ☐ Liquid! Graphics (Uncanny X-Men)
- ☐ Jonathan D. Smith (Fathom)
- ☐ Tom Smith (Avengers)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE LETTERER

- ☐ Todd Klein (Captain America)
- ☐ Ken Lopez (JLA)
- ☐ Chris Eliopoulos (Savage Dragon)
- ☐ Tom Orzechowski (Spawn)
- ☐ R. Starkings and Comicraft (Daredevil)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE EDITOR

- ☐ Tom Brevoort (Avengers)
- ☐ Dennis O'Neil (Batman)
- ☐ Jimmy Palmiotti/Joe Quesada (Daredevil)
- ☐ Dan Raspler (JLA)
- ☐ David Wohl (Fathom)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE HERO

- ☐ Batman (Batman)
- ☐ Daredevil (Daredevil)
- ☐ Spawn (Spawn)
- ☐ Thor (Thor)
- ☐ Wolverine (Uncanny X-Men)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE HEROINE

- ☐ Batgirl (Batman)
- ☐ Fathom (Fathom)
- ☐ Mina Murray (League of Ext. Gentlemen)
- ☐ Spider-Girl (Spider-Girl)
- ☐ Witchblade (Witchblade)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE VILLAIN

- ☐ Lex Luthor (Superman)
- ☐ Magneto (X-Men)
- ☐ Mysterio (Daredevil)
- ☐ The Skull (Earth X)
- ☐ Ultron (Avengers)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE SUPPORTING CHARACTER

- ☐ Harley Quinn (Batman)
- ☐ Edwin Jarvis (Avengers)
- ☐ Solomon (Tom Strong)
- ☐ Karen Page (Daredevil)
- ☐ Spoiler (Robin)
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE ONGOING SERIES

- ☐ Avengers
- ☐ Daredevil
- ☐ JLA
- ☐ Preacher
- ☐ Rising Stars
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE ONE-SHOT OR MINI-SERIES

- ☐ Batman: Harley Quinn
- ☐ Earth X
- ☐ Inhumans
- ☐ Jay and Silent Bob
- ☐ League of Extraordinary Gentlemen
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE PUBLISHER

- ☐ Dark Horse
- ☐ DC
- ☐ Marvel
- ☐ Todd McFarlane Productions
- ☐ Top Cow Productions
- ☐ write-in

FAVORITE COMIC MERCHANDISE

- ☐ Flash ring, DC Direct
- ☐ Marvel vs. Capcom video game, Capcom
- ☐ Sandman Key to Hell, DC Direct
- ☐ Sydney Savage action figure, McFarlane Toys
- ☐ Thor statue, Bowen Designs
- ☐ write-in

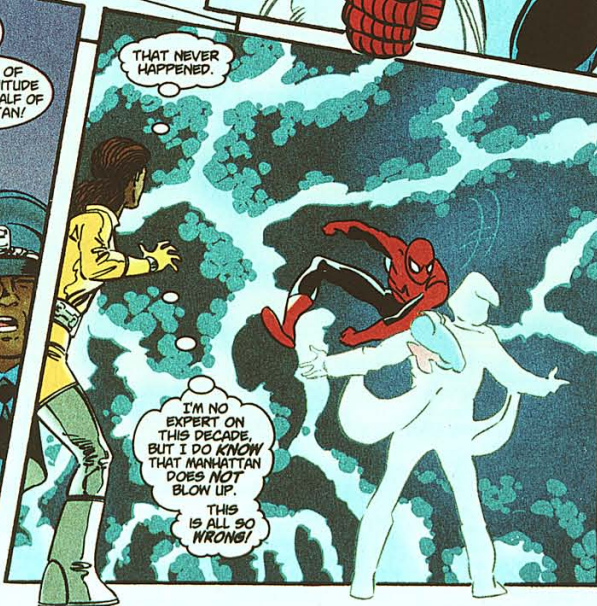
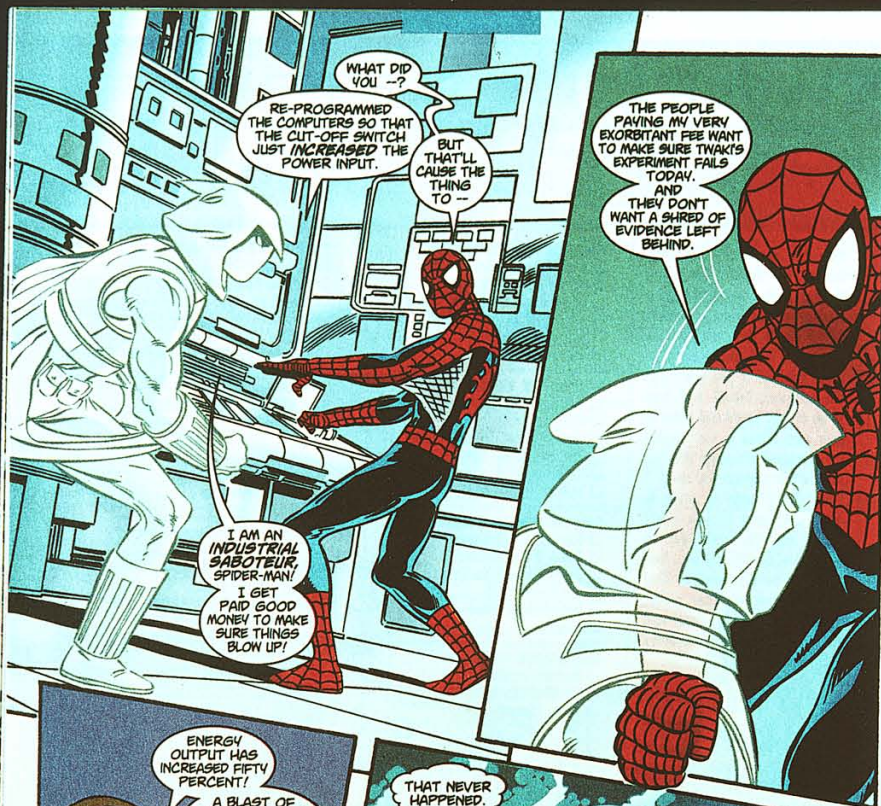
FAVORITE COMIC TV OR MOVIE PROJECT

- ☐ "Batman Beyond"
- ☐ "The New Batman/Superman Adventures"
- ☐ "Big Guy and Rusty the Boy Robot"
- ☐ "Mystery Men"
- ☐ "Space Ghost Coast to Coast"
- ☐ write-in

COMICS' GREATEST MOMENT—1999

- ☐ Beaten and battered Avengers confront Ultron, Avengers #22
- ☐ Death of Karen Page, Daredevil #5
- ☐ Public's discovery that Superman's married, Superman #152
- ☐ God bites out Jesse Custer's eye, Preacher #49
- ☐ Midnighter crashes ship into Gamorra, Authority #4
- ☐ Thor defeats the Dark Gods, Thor #12
- ☐ write-in

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DR. TWAKI! YOU'VE GOT TO...OH! WHAT DO YOU CALL IT? I READ ABOUT IT BACK IN SCHOOL...

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INVERT THE -- ARE YOU MAD?! WHO ARE YOU?

IT DOESN'T MATTER, BUT PHASE INVERSION IS GRADE SCHOOL PHYSICS... FORTUNATELY I WAS AWAKE THE DAY WE COVERED IT... YOU'VE GOT TO TRUST ME.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, YOUNG LADY... BUT IT MAKES SOME WARPED SENSE! YES! OF COURSE! PHASE INVERSION...

IT'S WORKING! THE REACTION IS DAMPING DOWN. NOW TO HELP SPIDER-MAN.



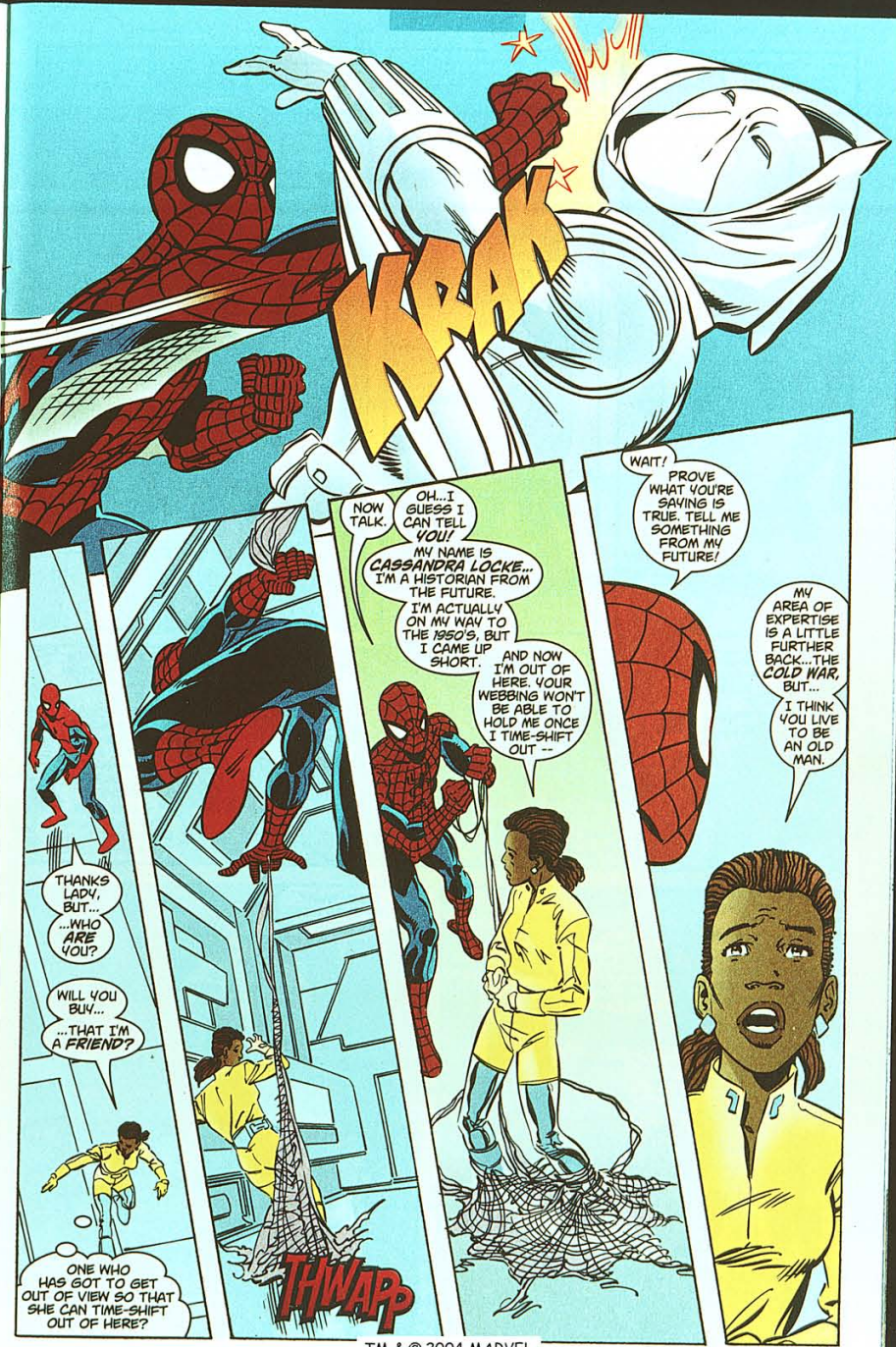
IF I USE THE TIME-WARP CAPABILITIES OF MY BELT...

...I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO PUT THE GHOST'S MECHANISMS OUT OF SYNC FOR A COUPLE OF SECONDS AND -- NOW, SPIDEY! NOW!



HUH?

HELLO THERE, GHOST! THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN WANTING TO GIVE YOU ALL NIGHT!



NOW TALK.

OH...I GUESS I CAN TELL YOU!

MY NAME IS CASSANDRA LOCKE... I'M A HISTORIAN FROM THE FUTURE. I'M ACTUALLY ON MY WAY TO THE 1950'S, BUT I CAME UP SHORT.

AND NOW I'M OUT OF HERE. YOUR WEBBING WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD ME ONCE I TIME-SHIFT OUT --

WAIT! PROVE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE. TELL ME SOMETHING FROM MY FUTURE!

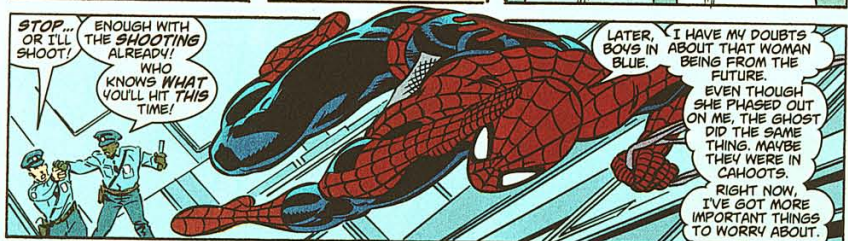
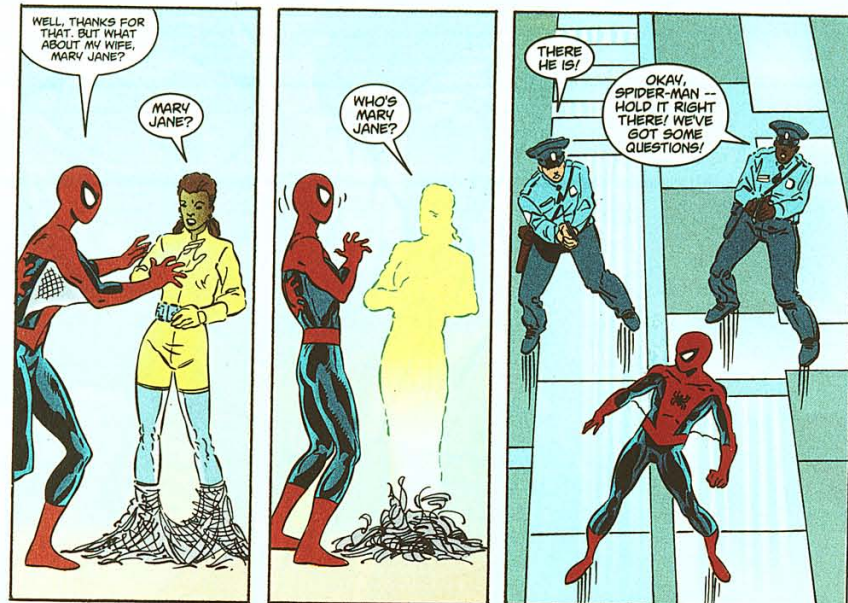
MY AREA OF EXPERTISE IS A LITTLE FURTHER BACK...THE COLD WAR, BUT... I THINK YOU LIVE TO BE AN OLD MAN.

THANKS LADY, BUT... WHO ARE YOU?

WILL YOU BUY... THAT I'M A FRIEND?

ONE WHO HAS GOT TO GET OUT OF VIEW SO THAT SHE CAN TIME-SHIFT OUT OF HERE?

THWAP



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- ☐ THO Thor
- ☐ BLT Thunderbolts

X-MEN

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- ☐ CAB Cable
- ☐ DDP Deadpool
- ☐ GAM Gambit
- ☐ GEN Generation X
- ☐ MTX Mutant X
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HE'S GOT TO KNOW. AND HE'S HOLDING IT AGAINST ME... NOT BUYING ANY OF THE PHOTOS... WHAT AM I GOING TO DO NOW?



THE END

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

Dear Spider's Web,

I just bought the first part of "Return of the Sinister Six" in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12 and it was great. I didn't expect Ward to be in Doctor Octopus' pocket. The rift between MJ and Peter is getting bigger by the moment. If they don't work it out, it could end in divorce or her death by the stalker.

Speaking of the stalker, I think it's Norman Osborn, since death can't stop him and he has the help of the Scorpions. I hope the resolution to the question of Peter and MJ's marriage is death, since it would be harder to deal with, just like Gwen's death. If Peter does get remarried in the future, let it be with a costumed woman instead of a civilian.

I was surprised to see that Venom wanted to join the Six. I think you would go overboard by letting Venom join, since Peter's spider-sense can't detect him. Mysterio has got to be Quentin Beck, since he joined the Six for revenge against Octopus and not for money.

Brett Foerster
sfoerster@kna.to

Thanks for writing, Brett. You're not the only one who has an opinion about whether it's actually Quentin Beck under the fishbowl helmet. Scan the page, you'll see that just everybody is chiming in on that one!

Dear AMAZING SPIDER-MAN crew,

I just wanted to say that I love what's going on in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12. The plot is just great! I can't wait to see what's going to happen! However, Mysterio has got me wondering: is he dead but somehow still alive, somehow existing between the dead and the living? Or is he dead, but just doesn't know it yet? Keep the mystery going; I hope it's a real twisted one by the time it's resolved!

Steve Angelucci
Deptford, NJ
creeper_5@excite.com

Interesting theory, Steve. Mysterio possibly being dead, but his restless soul still wandering around as if he weren't. Could be. It certainly would make for a creepy and disturbing situation, wouldn't it?

Greetings Matt and Ralf,

Re: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12

Rushed. This is the best word to describe this issue, without using undue negativity. First off, too much stuff went on. It took Doc Ock three issues once to summon all six members, and he's Doc Ock. You expect me to believe Sandman can do it in one? Plus, Peter juggles a lot of things this issue: marital problems, super fights, confronts a senator, stops Stacy, more fights, and that doesn't count what else was happening with everyone else. It's just a really poorly written blur.

Now on to the finer points that I did like: Marital problems. Finally, you are developing this. It's nice to see something not go right for Pete for a change. Also, the return of the Sinister Six is

great, but I think it has been poorly executed.

And now the points that disappoint me almost to the point of dropping the book (and I've been reading Spidey since 1979). First, your obvious backpedaling on the Mysterio issue. Not only do you over compensate for the mistake of resurrecting him, but you turn his "death" in DAREDEVIL into a big joke. It appears you are trying to establish that suicide has long been a Mysterio gag, but alas it has not. You also have him talking in pointless circles that try to be cryptic riddles; they fail. That is why I sincerely hope that it is not Quentin Beck under that bubble. Don't do that. It's better to respect your fellow writers and be creative with your stories than simply undermine good stories that have come before. If you want Mysterio back, it had better be a different guy, as per the creation of the Hobgoblin. This is a big point that will greatly determine the legitimacy of your skills, gentlemen. Do not let us down.

Secondly, Sandman has no motivation to be a villain again, other than that he wants to, seemingly. That is cheap. Why not make his inclination toward crime a struggle, or an addiction that he cannot kick? Why not have someone like Ock manipulate him back into crime like the Wizard did with the Trapster? That is far more interesting to read.

Next, Ock asking Spidey for help? Never. I can never see a circumstance where this would happen. I just don't believe it. It's not in Ock's character. Also, when has Spidey ever entered a room to confront someone through the door? He usually comes in the window. That is just standard Spidey practice, period. For that matter, when was the last time he threatened somebody like he threatened Ward? Again, very out of character. A little more attention to detail, please.

Costumes. Vulture in a suit? Ock with mechanical boots? Electro with no indication of electricity on his suit? If he got knocked out, nobody would know who he was! And what was with Venom's awkward jaw on the last page? It appears to me that the art is getting sloppy.

Speaking of Venom, he joins the Sinister Six for fun? This goes into that category of things I just don't believe for characters that have been clearly established.

This was just a very sloppy effort, gentlemen, and I've probably left some things out by accident. You continue to disappoint a very big fan of the greatest super hero ever. The best part of this issue lasted three pages and dealt with a guy named Peter Parker who has marital problems. Sorry, guys, but this is reaching for an all-new low in the adventures of Spider-Man. Keep trying.

Ronnie Dingman
Louisville, KY

Sorry we didn't strike a chord with you, Ronnie. You obviously have a number of very heartfelt opinions on this issue. We'll answer as many as we can in the space allotted.

On the Mysterio issue, without say-

ing too much, we can assure you that it was no one's intention to disrespect the work of the other writers in this office. It never has been, and it never will.

Don't like Sandman's sudden reversion to criminal status? We hope you checked out PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN #12, which contains a more adequate explanation for Sandy's recent "heel-turn" than you may have seen in these pages.

Hello,

After 10+ years of reading Marvel comics, I had never written a letter before (even during the clone saga!). However, I was happy to see Mysterio in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #12. I just hope this is the real Mysterio (i.e. Quentin Beck), and not some imitation.

I had looked forward to Kevin Smith's issues of DAREDEVIL, but was really disgusted that he basically repeated the classic "Kraven's Last Hunt" storyline—he took a classic villain, made him insane, and had him commit suicide at the end. While that was a great story with Kraven, it shouldn't have been repeated, especially with another classic Lee/Ditko Spidey villain as the victim. It was so predictable.

Frankly, I hope you guys say that the Mysterio in DAREDEVIL wasn't the real deal. There aren't that many of the old Spidey villains around that they can be treated so cavalierly. I hope you do not make the same mistake as DC—eliminating many of their older heroes and villains, but replacing them with new characters. I really can't imagine continuing to purchase Marvel comics if you did that.

Paul Beck
Hourman48@aol.com

Well, Paul, the jury's still out on Quentin Beck. This wouldn't have anything to do with your name, by any chance?

NEXT ISSUE:

FALLOUT FROM SPIDEY'S EPIC STRUGGLE WITH THE SINISTER SIX CONTINUES AS PETER FINDS HIMSELF UP AGAINST ELECTRO, MYSTERIO AND VENOM! SPIDEY COULD BARELY HANDLE THESE GUYS WHEN HE WASN'T OVERWHELMED BY GRIEF. WHAT CHANCE DOES HE HAVE NOW? FIND OUT IN FOUR WEEKS FROM ODDS-MAKERS MACKIE, BYRNE AND GREEN. ODDS ARE, YOU'VE GOT MORE OF A CLUE ABOUT THIS ISSUE'S CONTENTS THAN RALF.

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